

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 BIB-01 SMS-01 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02
ICA-15 /084 W

-----000529 010018Z /15

P 310106Z APR 79
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7290
INFO USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
ALL USCONS MEXICO

UNCLAS MEXICO 07031

E.O. 12065:N/A
TAGS:PFOR, CU, MX
SUBJ: ALLEGED CUBAN SPYING ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO

1. SUMMARY: MEXICO CITY DAILY NOVEDADES CARRIED ARTICLE
APRIL 29 ALLEGING THAT CUBAN EMBASSY IS CARRYING ON A
SPYING OPERATION BY INTERCEPTING CODED MESSAGES BETWEEN
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE IN LOS PINOS AND THE SECRETARIAT OF
DEFENSE. IT IDENTIFIED CUBAN FIRST SECRETARY LAZARO
ESPINOZA AS DIRECTOR OF THE OPERATION, AND SUGGESTED CUBAN
EMBASSY WAS ACTING AS A SOVIET PROXY IN AFFAIR. THESE
CHARGES WERE CATEGORICALLY DENIED BY CUBAN AMBASSADOR THE
NEXT DAY. END SUMMARY.

2. NOVEDADES COLUMNIST ALFREDO KAWAGE CHARGED ON APRIL 29
THAT CUBAN EMBASSY, ACTING AS AN ALTER EGO FOR THE SOVIET
EMBASSY, HAS BEEN MONITORING CODED RADIO TRANSMISSIONS
BETWEEN PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES AT LOS PINOS AND THE CHIEF OF
STAFF'S OFFICE IN THE SECRETARIAT FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE FOR
MORE THAN A YEAR. POINTING OUT THAT THE CUBAN EMBASSY,
LOCATED HALF WAY BETWEEN THE TWO MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES
IS IDEALLY LOCATED FOR INTERCEPTING SUCH MESSAGES, KAWAGE
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CLAIMED THAT THESE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING OPERATIONS ARE
BEING SUPERVISED BY CUBAN FIRST SECRETARY LAZARO EDY
ESPINOZA BONET WHO WAS ESPECIALLY SELECTED FOR THE JOB BY
CUBAN INTELLIGENCE AND THE KGB.

3. THE FOLLOWING DAY, NOVEDADES PRINTED A DENIAL OF THESE

CHARGES BY CUBAN AMBASSADOR IN MEXICO, FERNANDO LOPEZ MUINO, WHO LABELED THEM AS "RIDICULOUS," AND AN ATTEMPT TO PROVOKE BAD RELATIONS BETWEEN MEXICO AND CUBA.

4. IN EFFORT TO VERIFY CHARGES, NOVEDADES CONTACTED DIRECCION FEDERAL DE SEGURIDAD (DFS), THE ENTITY WHICH HANDLES ESPIONAGE CASES FOR THE GOM, BUT NO OFFICIAL WAS AVAILABLE TO COMMENT ON THE CASE, SINCE IT WAS SUNDAY.

5. COMMENT: ESPINOZA AND ANOTHER PERSON MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE, MIGUEL MANUAL SANTANA FRAZ, ARE RESPECTIVELY FIRST SECRETARY AND ATTACHE AT THE CUBAN EMBASSY. (DRAFTED BY ANTHONY C. PERKINS.) LUCEY

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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